GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
WELFARE SCHEME FOR WOMEN WORKERS
Majhi Shri Parsuram;Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments regarding improving the working conditions of the women employed in different sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has launched any welfare scheme for women workers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Central Government has enacted various laws. A meeting of the Central Advisory Committee on Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 was held at New Delhi on 24th June, 2008 in which various suggestions were made by the members to improve the working conditions of Women Workers viz. social security, insurance coverage, better facilities for skill development, constitution of State level advisory boards etc. The State Governments were requested to take follow-up action on these recommendations.

(c) & (d): Welfare of women workers is an ongoing process. Several laws have been enacted by the Government to secure reasonable working conditions for women employees and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Buildings and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 etc. which provide inter-alia, crÃ¨che facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding of children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace as well as safe working conditions.

The Government has introduced a scheme of assistance for the construction/expansion of hostel building for working women with day care centre for their children. Further, a Grant-in-aid scheme through Voluntary Organizations/ Non-governmental Organizations for awareness generation of women workers about their rights etc. is also implemented.